

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's withdrawal of the prior rejections and continuing thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action. Applicant has carefully examined the cited references and submits that the pending claims are patentable for at least the reasons explained below. New Claims 20 and 21 are directed to further patentable subject matter.

Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-10, 13-14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,363,089 to Goldenberg ("Goldenberg") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,990,355 to Ueyama et al. ("Ueyama"). Claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Goldenberg in view of Ueyama and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,966,777 to Jantschek ("Jantschek"). Claims 15, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Goldenberg in view of Ueyama and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,202 to Suso et al. ("Suso").

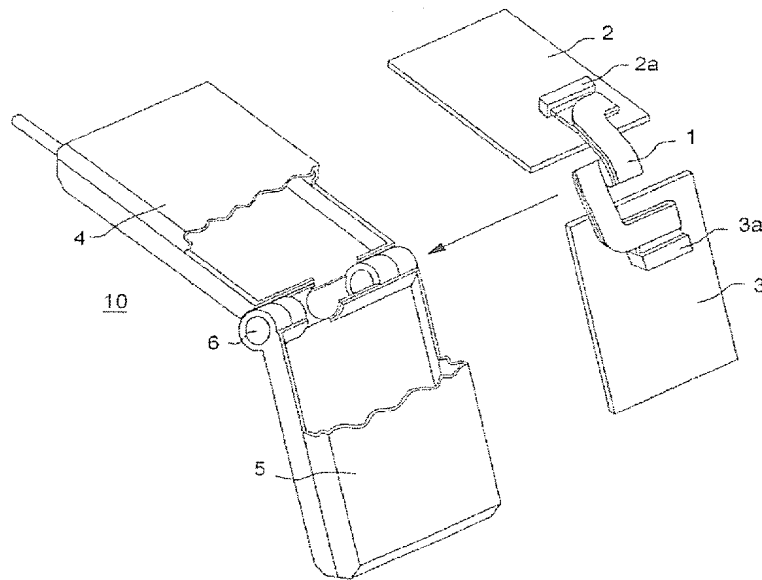
Independent Claim 1:

Claim 1 recites *inter alia* that a first set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the first part at the *exterior side* adjacent the bottom side thereof and are connected to the second part at the *interior side* adjacent the bottom side thereof, and a second set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the second part at the *exterior side* adjacent the bottom side thereof and are connected to the first part at the *interior side* adjacent the bottom side thereof.

The Office Action on page 4 concedes that the above-underlined recitations of Claim 1 are not disclosed by Goldenberg. However, the Office Action suggests that Ueyama discloses these recitations.

Referencing the exploded assembly shown in Ueyama's FIG. 6 (shown below) and the integrated assembly shown in FIG. 7, Ueyama describes and shows that "a central portion of the flexible printed circuit board (1) is bent one turn so as to form a helical shape" within a hinge portion (6). (Ueyama, col. 4, line 62 - col. 5, line 5).

Ueyama FIG. 6



With continued reference to FIG. 6 above, Ueyama shows that the flexible printed circuit board (1) is attached at one end to a first connector (2a) on a first circuit board (2) and at the other end to a second connector (3a) on a second circuit board (3). Ueyama shows in FIG. 6 that the connectors 2a and 3a, which are attached to opposite ends of the flexible printed circuit board (1), are attached to the same exterior side of the circuit boards 2 and 3 respectively within the first and second body casings 4 and 5. Nowhere does Ueyama disclose that one end of the flexible printed circuit board (1) is connected to the exterior side adjacent the bottom side of the first circuit board (2) (within the first body casing 4) and that the other end of the flexible printed circuit board (1) is connected to the interior side adjacent the bottom side of the second circuit board (3) (within the second body casing 5).

Moreover, Ueyama discloses only a single flexible printed circuit board (1) that interconnects the first and second circuit boards (2 and 3). Ueyama is devoid of any description of the first and second circuit boards (2 and 3) being interconnected by both a first

set of flexible electrical conductors and a second set of flexible electrical conductors. For the sake of argument, however, even if one of skill in the art were to apply the combined teachings of Goldenberg and Ueyama to connect first and second set of flexible electrical connectors, that person would still not be taught to connect the first and second sets of flexible electrical conductors to one of the first/second circuit boards (2/3) *at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof* and to the other one of the first/second circuit boards (2/3) *at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof*.

For at least these reasons, Ueyama does not disclose the recitations of Claim 1 that are also not taught by Goldenberg. Applicant therefore submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Goldenberg in view of Ueyama. Reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 17:

Claim 17 recites *inter alia* that a first set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the first part at the **exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof** and are connected to the second part at the **interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof**, and a second set of flexible electrical conductors are connected to the second part at the **exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof** and are connected to the first part at the **interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof**. Applicant notes that the above-underlined recitations of Claim 17 correspond to the above-underlined recitations of Claim 1.

In rejecting Claim 17, the Office Action cites Ueyama as allegedly disclosing the above-underlined recitations of Claim 17, and concedes that neither Goldenberg nor Suso disclose the above-underlined recitations. However, as explained above for the corresponding recitations of Claim 1, Ueyama does not disclose these recitations of Claim 17. Ueyama therefore does not disclose the recitations of Claim 17 that are also not taught by Goldenberg and Suso. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 17 is patentable over Goldenberg in view of Ueyama and Suso. Reconsideration and allowance of Claim 17 is respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2-5, 7-16, and 18:

Dependent Claims 2-5, 7-16, and 18 are patentable at least per the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend.

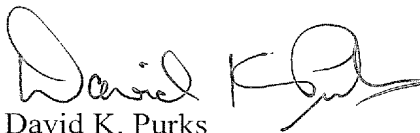
New Claims 20 and 21:

New dependent Claims 20 and 21 each recite that the first and second sets of flexible electrical conductors are spaced apart from one another on opposite sides of the hinge. An exemplary embodiment of Claims 20 and 21 is shown in FIG. 4 of the present application. In sharp contrast, Goldenberg discloses a single flexible conductor (215) that extends across a central portion of hinge (235) (Goldenberg, FIG. 2). Similarly, Ueyama discloses a single flexible print circuit board (1) that extends through a central portion of the hinge (6). None of the references, either alone or in combination, disclose first and second sets of flexible electrical conductors that are spaced apart from one another on opposite sides of a hinge as defined in Claims 20 and 21. Applicant therefore submits that new Claims 20 and 21 are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and the allowance of all claims in due course. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



David K. Purks
Registration No. 40,133
Attorney for Applicant(s)

USPTO Customer No. 54414
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P. O. Box 37428, Raleigh, NC 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401